

HIGHFIELD et al  
Serial No.: 09/664,363  
November 2, 2005

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amendment. 11/29/2006  
Baquero

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising an antigen, which antigen has an amino acid sequence that shares at least 90% sequence homology with the amino acid sequence encoded by the ~~post-transfusional non-A non-B hepatitis (PT-NANBH) virus genome and which is encoded by the~~ nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:20, or in bases 308-2116 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:21, or by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:22, wherein said antigen binds to an antibody against a post-transfusional non-A non-B hepatitis (PT-NANBH) virus.

22. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 21, wherein said amino acid sequence shares at least 90% sequence homology with the amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:4.

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23. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 22, wherein said amino acid sequence shares at least 95% sequence homology with the amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:4.

24. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 23 wherein said amino acid sequence shares at least 98% sequence homology with the amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:4.

25. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 21 wherein said amino acid sequence shares at least 95% sequence homology with the amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:20 or bases 308-2116 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:21 or by the nucleotide sequence ~~by~~ of SEQ ID NO:22.

26. (Currently Amended) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 25, wherein said amino acid sequence shares at least 98% sequence homology with the amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4,

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SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:20 or bases 308-2116 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:21 or by the nucleotide sequence ~~by~~ of SEQ ID NO:22.

27. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, or bases 308-504 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:18, or by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:19 or SEQ ID NO:20, or bases 308-2116 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:21 or by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:22.

28. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 27, wherein said polypeptide has the amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, or SEQ ID NO:5.

29. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid according to claim 28 wherein said polypeptide has the amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3 or SEQ ID NO:4.

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30. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising an antigen having an amino acid sequence that shares at least 98% sequence homology with the amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

31. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide comprising an antigen having an amino acid sequence that shares at least 98% sequence homology with the amino acid sequence encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:18 from bases 308-504.

32. (Previously Presented) An isolated nucleic acid having the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, bases 308-504 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ NO:18, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:20, bases 308-2116 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:21 or the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:22.

33. (Previously Presented) The isolated nucleic acid according to any one of claims 21, 27, 30, 31, and 32 wherein said nucleic acid is DNA.

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34. (Previously Presented) An expression vector comprising the nucleic acid of any one of claims 21, 27, 30, 31 and 32.

35. (Previously Presented) A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 34.

36. (Previously Presented) A process for preparing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell according to claim 35 under conditions so that said nucleic acid is expressed and said polypeptide is thereby produced.